

families. I urge my colleagues to join me on these measures.

A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL R. ENSLEY

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2001

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of North Carolina's leading citizens and to bring to the attention of my colleagues of the 107th Congress his many contributions.

Daniel R. Ensley, director of the mass communications program at Campbell University and a 1993-94 "Professor of the Year" at the institution, is retiring from Campbell due to health concerns. He will be greatly missed by fellow professors, by students in the mass communications school, and by the hundreds of alumni who remember the courses they took there.

Ensley, a native of Dover, Delaware, grew up in a military family and lived in New Jersey, Illinois, Florida, Georgia, and Oklahoma as a youngster. He is a 1979 magna cum laude graduate of Campbell. He worked for the college radio station throughout his college years and became station manager during his senior year. After graduation, he managed the station until 1984 and also taught courses at the University.

In 1984, Ensley entered graduate school at the University of South Carolina College of Journalism. He earned his Master of Arts degree from that institution in 1986 and was accepted for a Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin. Just before leaving for Madison, Wisconsin, Ensley was contacted by the administrators at Campbell and offered a position as an instructor in the Department of Communications. He accepted and joined the Campbell family.

Ensley was promoted to assistant professor in 1990 and twice—1989 and 1999—has won the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence. The Student Government Association honored him with the first "Professor of the Year" award in 1993-94, and he was also honored as "Teacher of the Year" by the Omicron Delta Kappa society in June of 1994. That same year, the college yearbook was dedicated to him. In 1987, the college of Journalism at the University of South Carolina awarded him its Excellence in Research Award for his masters thesis.

Ensley's most dramatic contribution to the University came in 1991 when he created the Department of Mass Communications at the university. As director of the new department, he designed curriculum, taught courses, and established and monitored an internship program.

Hundreds of former students owe Ensley a debt of gratitude for the work he did with them while they were at Campbell. One former student, Dallas Woodhouse, a political reporter for NBC-17 in Raleigh, says he owes his career to the retiring educator.

"Ensley gave his life to his students," Woodhouse says. "Nights. Weekends. Overnights. He gave it all and never complained. I have never seen someone work so much and so hard. I have never seen someone like Dan Ensley. I only hope I can teach my children his work ethic and his selflessness."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EIU
PANTHERS

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2001

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate one of my district's college basketball teams. The Eastern Illinois University Panthers of Charleston, IL recently won the OVC tournament championship. The Panthers defeated Austin Peay 107-100 in the championship game at Eastern Illinois University's Lantz Gym. The Panthers finished the season with a 17-12 record.

Led by coaches Rick Samuels, Troy Collier, and Steve Weemer, members of the 2001 EIU Panthers include Rod Henry, Jan Thompson, Craig Lewis, Chris Herrera, Kyle Hill, Matt Britton, Eric Sandholm, Nate Schroeder, Merve Joseph, Andy Gobjczynski, John Thorsen, Todd Bergmann, Henry Domercant, Ryan Kelly, and Jesse Mackinson.

The members of the EIU Panthers should be proud of their achievement. I congratulate them and wish them good luck in future basketball seasons.

RETIREMENT OF JAMES I. SMITH,
III

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2001

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the retirement of a man who has been a fixture in Allegheny County's public life for a number of decades.

On June 1, 2001, James I. Smith III will retire as the executive director of the Allegheny County Bar Association. Mr. Smith has served as the executive director of this organization for the last 38 years.

In the course of his tenure, Mr. Smith has made a number of innovative changes in the organization's operations. In addition to supervising the ACBA's many departments, Mr. Smith instituted the ACBA's first Bench-Bar Conference, developed a daily in-house legal newspaper, and developed the first video deposition service in the nation. He has carried out his duties with great dedication and professionalism.

I commend Mr. Smith for his many contributions to the community, and I wish him a long and happy retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HCFA FOR
SAVING MEDICARE MONEY; CON-
GRESS SHOULD GIVE HCFA
MORE COMPETITIVE PUR-
CHASING TOOLS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, a lot of Members of Congress have been criticizing HCFA lately, largely because they are trying to carry out impossible complex laws passed by Members of Congress.

We also complain that HCFA isn't competitive enough. In the BBA of 1997, we gave authority to HCFA to carry out competitive bidding demonstrations on the purchase of durable medical equipment. Those demonstrations are indeed showing substantial savings. I would like to enter in the RECORD a press release of March 1st describing the progress of these demonstrations.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should immediately allow those demonstrations to become permanent and to be extended nationwide. Congress should stop calling HCFA inefficient when we aren't willing to give it the power to be efficient.

[From the HCFA Press Office, Mar. 1, 2001]

SECOND ROUND OF MEDICARE COMPETITIVE
BIDDING PROJECT FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN
POLK COUNTY, FLA.

Medicare has launched the second round of its successful pilot project in Polk County, Fla., that uses competition to provide quality medical equipment and supplies to beneficiaries at better prices. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 authorizes the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to demonstrate how competitive bidding can help Medicare beneficiaries and the program pay more reasonable prices for quality medical equipment and supplies. Several studies by the U.S. General Accounting (GAO) and the HHS Inspector General have shown that the Medicare program and its beneficiaries often pay more for medical equipment and supplies than the prices paid by other insurers and individual patients. Requiring suppliers interested in serving Medicare beneficiaries to submit bids including quality and price information assures access to high-quality medical equipment at a fairer price. The changes also can reduce Medicare waste and abuse.

During the first round of the Polk County demonstration, HCFA, the agency that administers Medicare, invited companies to compete to sell medical equipment and supplies to 92,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Polk County. Bids were evaluated on the basis of quality and price. The new rates set by this competitive process are saving individual beneficiaries and Medicare an average of 17 percent on the cost of certain medical supplies, while protecting quality and access for Polk County beneficiaries. The competitive bidding process took place in the spring of 1999. The new rates took effect on Oct. 1, 1999, and will remain in effect until Sept. 30, 2001.

HCFA implemented a similar demonstration in three Texas counties in the San Antonio area—Bexar, Comal and Guadalupe counties. Suppliers who wished to sell products in five categories to Medicare beneficiaries in the region were required to compete on the basis of quality and price in the spring of 2000. As in the Polk County process, the new prices are saving individual beneficiaries and Medicare an average of 20 percent on the cost of certain medical supplies while protecting quality and access for San Antonio beneficiaries. The new rates took effect on Feb. 1, 2001, and will remain in effect until Dec. 31, 2002.

In the second round of the Polk County demonstration, suppliers will again compete this spring on the basis of quality and price for four of categories of medical equipment and supplies categories included in the first round of the pilot. The categories are: oxygen supplies; hospital beds; urological supplies and surgical dressings. The fifth product category, enteral nutrition, is not being included in the second round because the focus of the demonstration is on medical equipment and supplies delivered to the